a lock mounted to the handle, wherein said lock is configured to slide in a slotted hole in the handle to transition between an operable position and an inoperable position, where in the operable position said lock is configured to obstruct a path of the distal end of the blade to prevent the knife from being placed in the open position.

7 4. (Amended) The knife of claim 3, 1 wherein said lock is configured to use friction to maintain a position in the ~~channel~~ slotted hole.

4 6. (Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a blade including a distal end and a tang;

a handle configured to include a hollow region for receiving the blade, said blade being pivotally coupled to the handle via a pin to position the knife between an open position and a closed position;

a lock mounted to the handle, said lock configured to obstruct a path of the distal end of the blade to prevent the knife from being placed in the open position; and

a bias element configured to assist a user in opening the knife.

6 ~~8~~. (Amended) The knife of claim 3, 1 wherein the tang is configured to protrude from the handle when the knife is in the closed position.

7 ~~9~~. (Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a blade including a distal end and a tang;

a handle including a hollow region configured to receive the blade, said blade being pivotally coupled to the handle via a pin;

a bias element housed in the handle and configured to assist the blade in extending from the hollow region of the handle; and

a user-manipulable safety lock configured to prevent the blade from moving out of the hollow region of the handle.

8 ~~10~~. (Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a blade including a distal end and a tang;

a handle including a hollow region configured to receive the blade, said blade being pivotally coupled to the handle via a pin;

a bias element housed in the handle and configured to assist the blade in extending from the hollow region of the handle; and

a safety lock configured to prevent the blade from moving out of the hollow region of the handle wherein the safety lock includes a block that limits the movement of the distal end of the blade.

9 ~~11~~. (Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a blade including a distal end and a tang;

a handle including a hollow region configured to receive the blade, said blade being pivotally coupled to the handle via a pin;

a bias element housed in the handle and configured to assist the blade in extending from the hollow region of the handle; and

a safety lock configured to prevent the blade from moving out of the hollow region of the handle wherein the safety lock is configured to slide in a channel in the handle.

10 ~~12~~. (Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a blade including a distal end and a tang;

a handle including a hollow region configured to receive the blade, said blade being pivotally coupled to the handle via a pin;

a bias element housed in the handle and configured to assist the blade in extending from the hollow region of the handle; and

a safety lock configured to prevent the blade from moving out of the hollow region of the handle wherein the safety lock is configured to slide to a position that allows the blade to move out of the hollow region of the handle.

11 ~~19~~. (Amended) A safety lock for locking a blade of a folding knife in a folded position, comprising a block configured to contact the distal end of the blade to prevent the blade from moving out of the folded position wherein the block slides along a slotted hole to move between an operable position and an inoperable position.

12 ~~20~~. (Amended) The safety lock of claim ~~19~~ 11, wherein the block uses friction to maintain a position in the slotted hole.

Please add new claim 21.

13 ~~21~~. (New) A folding knife comprising:

a blade including a distal end and a tang;

a handle including a hollow region configured to receive the blade, the blade being pivotally coupled to the handle and moveable between an open position and a closed position; and